

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed November 12, 2008 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1 – 18 are rejected. Claims 1, 8 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman et al. (US 5,760,773) in view of Fitzmaurice (US 2004/0135824). Claims 3, 4, 10, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berman et al. (US 5,760,773) in view of Fitzmaurice (US 2004/0135824) and further in view of Kupka (US 7,055,110).

With regard to Claim 1, the Office Action recites that "Berman modified by Fitzmaurice discloses maintaining the placement of the glom widget next to the node handle such that the glom widget is statically positioned during the handwriting that is associated with the node handle and is statically positioned while the glom widget is displayed and when a glom widget menu is activated (column 21, lines 40-45). Berman discloses the action handle is displayed in association with a flashing insertion point continuously, so that the user will readily be able to find the insertion point. The action handles may be tapped, revealing a context menu.(column 4, lines 40-50)." The Office Action also recite that Berman teaches that "The action handle is continuously displayed with a carat (node handle). The placement of the action handle is maintained in association with the insertion point where characters typed from a keyboard are placed (column 21, lines 26-35)." The Applicants respectfully disagree, but have amended Claim 1 to more clearly define the invention.

As amended, Claim 1 recites in part "in response to determining a current handwriting; placing a glom widget at a location next to a node handle that is associated with current handwriting that is located near a current writing location such that the user selects the glom widget with reduced movement as compared to accessing a toolbar associated with the writing

window; wherein the glom widget is represented by a single selectable graphic that includes only two states including a selected state and a non-selected state; wherein the location of the placement of the glom widget is specified in part by a user preference; maintaining the placement of the glom widget at the location next to the node handle such that the glom widget does not move while the glom widget is displayed during any current handwriting and when a glom widget menu is activated; and displaying the glom widget menu having menu items that are associated with handwriting near the current writing location when the glom widget is selected; wherein the glom widget menu comprises the following commands: merge paragraph with a paragraph above; split a last line into a new paragraph; and cancel which dismisses the glom widget menu from being displayed.” Among other differences, the cited references do not teach maintaining the glom widget at a specific location that does not move during a current handwriting.

In contrast, Berman teaches the display of an action handle that moves during interaction with the text. In other words, once the action handle is placed it moves as a result of user interaction. At col. 21, lines 35-46, Berman recites in part “Optionally, the present invention contemplates generation and display of the action handle only upon an initial action such as a tap by the user at a particular location in the text. This particular option requires an additional step—the initial tap to create the insertion point and associated action handle. Preferably, however, an action handle is displayed in association with a flashing insertion point continuously, so that the user will readily be able to find the insertion point (because of the size of the action handle) and will not have to remember the tap required to cause creation of the action handle.” While Berman may determine a location to place the action handle, the action handle moves while it is displayed (See FIGURE 11). For example, in Berman the user can press the pen down and drag the action handle to the right. This movement causes the display of the action handle to move locations. Claim 1, however, does not allow the action handle to move locations while it is displayed. Additionally, Claim 1 specifies that the location where the glom widget is placed is determined in part by a user preference. For example, a user may specify to place the glom widget a quarter of an inch above the current writing (See first paragraph on page 5 of Applicants’ specification.) In addition to these arguments, the cited references do not teach the

glom widget menu commands that include the commands: merge paragraph with a paragraph above; split a last line into a new paragraph; and cancel which dismisses the glom widget menu from being displayed. Since the cited references do not teach displaying a glom widget at a single location that is determined in part from a user specified location for the glom widget, Claim 1 is proposed to be allowable. Claims depending from Claim 1 are proposed to be allowable as they depend on a valid base claim.

Claim 8 as amended recites in part “in response to determining the current writing location; placing a glom widget at a location near the current writing location that provides access to commands associated with writing; wherein the glom widget includes only a selected state and an unselected state; maintaining the placement of the glom widget at the location while a node handle that is associated with the writing is active such that the glom widget is statically positioned while the glom widget is displayed and during the writing that is associated with the node handle;” Claim 8 is proposed to be allowable for at least some of the reasons presented above. Claims depending from Claim 8 are proposed to be allowable as they depend on a valid base claim.

Claim 13 as amended recites in part “in response to determining the current handwriting location, placing a glom widget at a location near the current writing location as determined by a user preference; wherein the glom widget includes only a selected state and an unselected state; maintaining the placement of the glom widget at the location while a node handle that is associated with the writing is active such that the glom widget is statically positioned while the glom widget is displayed and during the writing that is associated with the node handle.” Claim 13 is proposed to be allowable for at least some of the reasons presented above. Claims depending from Claim 13 are proposed to be allowable as they depend on a valid base claim.

Conclusion

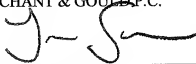
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application,

the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
206.342.6200



Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



Timothy P. Sullivan
Reg. No. 47,981
Direct Dial 206.342.6254